

## Lancaster University on-campus rents - motion to Council 15 April 2015

Submitted by Cllrs Filmore, Kay, Brookes and Barry.

*This council notes:*

1. *Lancaster University intends to increase on-campus rents by 2.5% and international and postgraduate tuition fees by 5%.*
2. *These increases come at a time when the University is running a substantial budget surplus.*
3. *The Court of Lancaster University recently voted against the increases.*
4. *The average on-campus rent advertised for 2015/16 is approx. £109 per week for a single room in shared accommodation.*
5. *This let is equivalent to 76% of the maximum student maintenance loan, leaving some students dependant on their parents or part-time jobs to meet their basic living costs.*
6. *The the local housing allowance rate for a single bedroom in a shared house is approx. £55 per week, almost half the average rent on campus.*

*This council believes:*

1. *Students make a important contribution to the prosperity of Lancaster and the district.*
2. *That above inflation increases in rent and fees will cause some students considerable financial hardship.*
3. *That the financial well being of students is inextricably linked to the economic well being of the district.*
4. *That in the spirit of the university's motto – 'truth lies open to all' – education at Lancaster University should be accessible for everyone.*

This council resolves:

To write to the Vice Chancellor of Lancaster University, expressing serious concern regarding the proposed fee and rent increases, and ask what the University is doing to ensure students from unprivileged backgrounds are able to afford their studies.

### Officer Briefing Note

This motion falls within Council Procedure Rule 16.4, as it relates to Lancaster University and its students, and is therefore about a matter which affects the district.

The financial information set out in the motion relates to the University and the fees and rents charged to students. Officers have no direct knowledge of these matters, and are unable to confirm or comment on the figures set out in the motion.

However, to the extent that the motion simply provides for the Council to express its views, there are no risks or financial or legal implications for the Council should the motion be carried.

### Monitoring Officer Comments

This briefing note has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer.

### Section 151 Officer Comments

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.